



TEMPLE EMANU-EL Bulletin

Volume 77, Number 26

February 25, 2005

UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday, March 3 1 p.m.
**Women's Auxiliary:
English in Action Training Session**
A representative from the English-Speaking Union of the United States will lead an orientation session for those individuals who have volunteered for our new Thursday afternoon session. Please meet in the Women's Auxiliary Lounge (Room 602). Questions? Call (212) 744-1400, ext. 235.

Monday, March 7 6:30 p.m.
Wednesday, March 9 6:30 p.m.
Youth Group Leadership Academy
Don't forget about our next scheduled sessions: Monday for eighth graders, Wednesday for ninth graders. Dinner will be served. Please note, on Wednesday we will meet in the Leventritt Room (Room 402).

SABBATH SERVICES

**Friday evening, March 4
Main Sanctuary**
Organ Recital—5 p.m.
Sabbath Eve Service—5:15 p.m.
WQXR Radio (96.3 FM) and Internet (www.wqxr.com) broadcasts—5:30 p.m.

**Saturday morning, March 5
Women's Auxiliary Lounge**
Torah Study—9:15 a.m.
Main Sanctuary
Service—10:30 a.m.
Torah Portion—Vayakhel
Readings—Exodus 35:1-38:20
II Kings 12:5-16
Student Rabbi Howard Goldsmith preaching

MEN'S CLUB

Thursday, March 24
6:30 p.m.
**Family Purim
Celebration**

The Men's Club of Congregation Emanu-El invites all Temple members and their families to this special celebration in honor of Purim. Our evening includes dinner and entertainment by *Divahn*, a music ensemble that infuses traditional Jewish songs with sophisticated harmonies and entrancing improvisations. This riveting live show features such instruments as the tabla, cello, violin, didgeridoo and



doumbek, as well as vocals in Hebrew, Judeo-Spanish, Persian, Arabic and Aramaic. Front-woman, lead singer and anthropologist Galeet Dardashti follows a family tradition of distinguished musicianship dating back to 19th century Persia. *Divahn*, a word common to Hebrew, Persian and Arabic, means "a collection of songs or poetry."

The cost for this event is \$50 per adult, \$35 per child (under age 13). Reserve your seating by Thursday, March 17. Call the Men's Club at (212) 744-1400, ext. 250. Enter through the Marvin and Elisabeth Cassell Community House, One East 65th Street.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday, March 9 10:30 a.m.

**Women's Auxiliary:
Coffee With Student Rabbi
Howard Goldsmith**

Women's Auxiliary members and their guests are invited to this special presentation by Student Rabbi Howard Goldsmith on Philip Roth's book *The Plot Against America*. RSVP to (212) 744-1400, ext. 235 by Friday, March 4. (Please note, this program is in place of the program originally scheduled for March 8.)

Thursday, March 10 6 p.m.

**Reform Sisterhoods of Manhattan*:
A Journey of Spirit**

All are welcome to this viewing of *A Journey of Spirit*, Ann Coppel's award-winning documentary about Debbie Friedman and her contribution to Jewish music. Dinner and wine will be served before the film. Both Ms. Coppel and Ms. Friedman will join us afterward for questions. The event will be held at **Congregation Rodeph Sholom**, 7 West 83rd St.

Cost is \$25 per person. RSVP to the Women's Auxiliary at (212) 744-1400, ext. 235.

**Reform Sisterhoods of Manhattan is a joint effort of Temple Emanu-El, Temple Israel, Central Synagogue, Congregation Rodeph Sholom, Stephen Wise Free Synagogue, The Shul of New York and The Village Temple.*

Friday, March 11 6:30 p.m.

Seventh Grade Sabbath Dinner

Seventh grade Religious School students are invited to dinner in the private dining room of Palm Too, 840 Second Ave. (between 44th and 45th streets). RSVP by Monday, March 7 to Rabbi Posner at (212) 744-1400, ext. 202. There is no charge for this event.

Saturday, March 12 1 p.m.

**Fifth and Sixth Grade Youth Group:
Purim and Mishlo-ach Manot**

Join us as we celebrate Purim and perform the mitzvah of making *mishlo-ach manot*. Lunch will be served. Cost is \$10 per person. RSVP to Arin Frome at (917) 886-2722.

Saturday, March 12 Time TBD

**Emanu-El League:
Saturday Night Comedy**

Save this date for an evening of laughter and entertainment at one of New York's comedy clubs. Details will be forthcoming!

Sunday, March 13 10 a.m.

Young Families: Purim Celebration

Don't miss the fun—a special performance by Magic AI, holiday foods, art projects. Costumes are encouraged! RSVP to (212) 744-1400, ext. 242.

PULPIT FLOWERS

**Pulpit flowers at Sabbath services
this weekend are the generous
donation of our congregants:**

Carol L. Klapper
in loving memory of her mother,
Frances Klapper

Jane G. Rittmaster
in loving memory of my mother,
Hilda Krakeur Goldstone

Charles S. Salomon
The Universal Funeral Chapel
1076 Madison Avenue (212) 753-5300
Our service is available in the Temple, home, or our Chapel.

B'NEI MITZVAH

**The following Religious School students
will become B'nei Mitzvah this weekend:**

Carla Altaras, daughter of
Vyvette and Avram Altaras

David Jacques Shifke, son of
Pat and Mark Shifke

**We are grateful for their sponsorship
of Friday evening's Oneg Shabbat.**

The Cemeteries of Congregation Emanu-El
Salem Fields and Beth-El
A limited number of above-ground crypts are available in
our community mausoleum. For information, please call
Dr. Mark W. Weisstuch at the Temple Office, (212) 744-1400.

350 YEARS OF AMERICAN JEWISH THINKERS: A CELEBRATION OF JEWISH CREATIVITY (PART 6 OF 10)

By Rabbi Rachel Sabath-Beit Halachmi

Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel was one of the greatest interpreters of Jewish texts and Jewish prayer in the modern era. Born in Poland, Heschel was the descendent of great Hasidic dynasties on both sides. Trained extensively in traditional Jewish texts, Heschel as a young man wanted to expand his education to include modern study. He left his family home in Warsaw to attend school in Vilna and later left for Germany. In 1939, saved from the deportation by the Refugee Scholars Project of the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, Heschel arrived in the United States. He taught for several years at HUC-JIR before moving to New York to teach at the Jewish Theological Seminary.

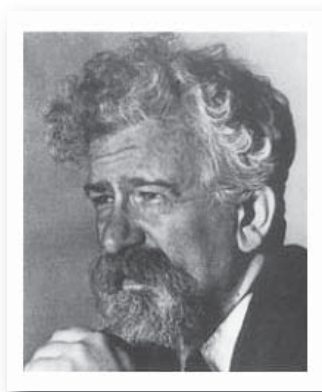
Heschel wrote poems and works on Hasidism in Yiddish. His initial academic writings were in German, but he also wrote numerous works on religion and philosophy in English. Heschel's *tour de force* was a three-volume work on theology, written in Hebrew. (Recently, selections of the Hebrew work *Torah From Heaven* have been translated with a commentary.) His use of a unique poetic language has been noted by many scholars—some calling it “holiness in words,” while others finding it difficult to interpret.

Heschel's best-known works in English include *Gods in Search of Man*, *Man is Not Alone* and *The Sabbath*. Many of his essays were published posthumously in a volume entitled *Moral Grandeur and Spiritual Audacity*, with the idea that Heschel sought to teach his students about the role of Jewish values in the world.

Heschel's importance as an interpreter of texts and Hasidic thought is outweighed only by his work on Jewish prayer. Heschel taught

that one must balance *keva* and *kavanah*, the fixity of our prayer book and the spontaneity of the prayer of one's heart. Refusing to surrender either of the poles of Jewish worship, Heschel maintained high standards for a life of Jewish piety. He knew the dangers of a fossilized religion. He wrote:

Religion becomes sinful when it begins to advocate the segregation of God, to forget that the true sanctuary has no walls.... It has often done more...to petrify the sacred than to sanctify the secular.
(God in Search of Man)



**ABRAHAM
JOSHUA HESCHEL
(1907-1972)**

But Heschel was interested not only in Jewish prayer and texts. From an early age, he understood the importance of Jewish acts of “moral grandeur” and knew that the legalistic thinking of the tradition must work together with the demands of the hour. Heschel personally was connected to Martin Luther King Jr. and supported Dr. King long before it was acceptable politically to do so. Heschel marched with Dr. King on behalf of civil rights and, together with many of our colleagues, was imprisoned with him. Heschel also knew Pope Paul VI and helped to create a new era in Catholic-Jewish relations.

Heschel's legacy is found nearly everywhere in Jewish life. Several schools and centers are named in his honor. Prizes and awards abound with his name. His books are classics in Jewish education, his thoughts on prayer are found in every liberal prayer book, and his books increasingly are translated into Hebrew as well as many other languages. For generations to come Heschel's unique blend of Hasidism with modernity and Jewish law with spiritual political action will inform Jewish thought and life throughout the world.



FACES OF EMANU-EL



**SHERRY
NEHMER**

*Associate Director
of Administration*

As Temple Emanu-El's associate director of administration, Sherry Nehmer is used to wearing various hats in the course of her job. She schedules and coordinates weddings, B'nei Mitzvah ceremonies and other life-cycle events. She serves as benefits manager for Temple employees and handles High Holy Day seating for junior members.

She also assists with Sabbath and holiday services and coordinates ushers.

"I answered an ad for event coordinator, but the job has become so much more," says Sherry, an Emanu-El staffer since 1998.

Born and raised in Washington, D.C., Sherry considers herself a *de facto* New Yorker for having lived here so long. She studied journalism at the Newhouse School of Public Communication at Syracuse University, and her early career work included writing documentary films.

"They weren't glamorous subjects," Sherry says. "A lot were for the government—history of the commemorative stamp—and of that order." She went on to study theater and for 15 years was part of a professional company that organizes Renaissance Festivals around the country. Working her way up from "wench" to an eight-year reign as "Queen," Sherry eventually became director and then artistic director. "Once you've directed a joust with four horses and a hundred actors, there's no wedding that can faze you," she says.

"Faces of Emanu-El" is a new feature highlighting the people who help make our Temple such a special place.

TEMPLE EMANU-EL BULLETIN



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Web site: www.emanuelnyc.org

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Associate Rabbi

Rabbi Nadia E. Gold

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